

CLAIMS:

1. A device for reducing growth of hairs on human skin, which device comprises a source of electromagnetic radiation that emits in a wavelength range between 550 and 1200 nm, characterized in that the device comprises control means for limiting the deliverable energy density of the radiation on the skin to a maximum value between 1 and 12 J/cm².

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2. A device according to claim 1, characterized in that, during operation, the control means limits the deliverable energy density of the radiation on the skin to a maximum value between 5 and 9 J/cm².

10 3. A device according to claim 1, characterized in that, during operation, the control means selects the maximum value in accordance with selected properties of the skin to be treated.

15 4. A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the wavelength range is between 600 and 950 nm.

5. A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the source is a pulsed source that emits radiation pulses with a duration between 1 and 100 ms.

20 6. A device according to claim 5, characterized in that the duration of the radiation pulses is between 1 and 30 ms.

7. A device according to claim 6, characterized in that the duration of the radiation pulses is between 10 and 20 ms.

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8. A device according to claim 2, characterized in that the source comprises a flash lamp having a wavelength spectrum ranging from 600 until 950 nm, and in that the duration of the radiation pulses is between 10 and 20 ms.

9. A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the source is a continuous source, the control means being designed to measure a velocity with which the device is moved over the skin to be treated and to adjust the energy density of the radiation emitted by the source as a function of the measured velocity, such that the energy density of the
5 radiation delivered to an area of the skin being treated is at most equal to the maximum value.
10. A device according to claim 5, characterized in that the source comprises a flash lamp.
- 10 11. A method for reducing growth of hairs on human skin, comprising delivering at least one pulse of electromagnetic radiation to the skin, wherein a wavelength spectrum of the electromagnetic radiation is selected between 550 and 1200 nm, characterized in that an energy density of the electromagnetic radiation delivered to the skin is selected between 1 and 12 J/cm², preferably between 5 and 9 J/cm², wherein a duration of the pulse is between
15 1 and 100 ms, preferably between 1 and 30 ms, such that anagen follicles of said hairs are induced to a resting phase in their growth cycle, thereby substantially preventing permanent damage to follicles of the hairs.
- 20 12. A method according to claim 11, characterized in that the wavelength spectrum is between 600 and 950 nm.